

Title 210 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Chapter 18 - MASS MARKETING OF PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

~~001. Statutory authority. Pursuant to Section Neb.Rev.Stat. §44-101.01, R.S. Supp. 1972, the Department of Insurance adopts and promulgates the following rules relating to the mass marketing of property and casualty insurance coverages.~~

~~002. Introduction. The purpose of this regulation is to prescribe rules to prevent abuses in connection with the sale of property casualty insurance in this state pursuant to mass marketing plans, while preserving for consumers the potential benefits of this form of marketing.~~

~~003. Definitions. As used in this regulation:~~

~~003.01 "Mass marketing plan" means a method of selling property casualty insurance wherein (i) such insurance is offered to employees of particular employers or to members of particular associations or organizations or to persons grouped in other ways and (ii) the employer, association or organization if any, has agreed to or otherwise affiliated itself with, the sale of such insurance to its employees or members; and~~

~~003.02 "Property casualty insurance" means insurance to which Section Neb.Rev.Stat. §44-201, (1), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10), (12), and (13) of the Insurance Law applies.~~

~~004. Applicability. This regulation shall be applicable only to insurance policies issued or renewed in this state after May 1, 1973, and is in addition to, and not in substitution for, other applicable requirements of the Insurance Law and Department regulations. The requirements of this regulation are not applicable to methods of marketing other than mass marketing plans.~~

~~005. Fictitious arrangement prohibited. No insurer shall, without the approval of the Director sell insurance pursuant to a mass marketing plan to members of any association or organization formed principally for the purpose of obtaining such insurance.~~

~~006. Premium rates. Premium rates under a mass marketing plan shall comply with the standards in the Insurance Law, including the standards that rates not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. Rates shall not be deemed to be unfairly discriminatory because different premiums result for policyholders with like loss exposures but different expense factors, or like expense factors but different loss exposures, so long as the rates reflect the differences with reasonable accuracy. Rates shall not be deemed to be unfairly discriminatory if they are averaged broadly among persons insured under a mass marketing plan.~~

~~007. Statistics.~~ An insurer selling insurance pursuant to mass marketing plans shall maintain separate statistics for each plan as to loss and expense experience pertinent thereto.

~~008. Producers.~~ No person shall act as an insurance agent or an insurance broker in connection with a mass marketing plan for any kind of insurance unless such person is duly licensed, under the Insurance Producers Licensing Act, Neb.Rev.Stat. §44-4001 et seq., as an agent or broker for such kind of insurance.

~~009. Compulsory participation prohibited.~~ No insurer shall sell insurance pursuant to a mass marketing plan if it is a condition of employment or of membership in an association, organization, or other group that any employee or member purchase insurance pursuant to such plan, or if any employee or member shall be subject to any penalty by reason of his non-participation.

~~010. Tie in sales prohibited.~~ No insurer shall sell insurance pursuant to a mass marketing plan if (i) the purchase of insurance available under such plan is contingent upon the purchase of any other insurance, product, or service, or (ii) the purchase or price of any other insurance, product, or service is contingent upon the purchase of insurance available under such plan. This provision shall not be deemed to prohibit the reasonable requirement of safety devices, such as heat detectors, lightning rods, theft prevention equipment and the like.

~~011. Disclosure required.~~ Every insurer, agent, or broker selling insurance pursuant to a mass marketing plan shall, prior to sale, make full and fair disclosure to prospective insureds of all features of such plan, whether favorable or unfavorable, including but not limited to premium rates, benefits, duration of coverage, policyholder services, conversion privileges available, and the financial interests in the plan, if any, of the sponsoring employer, association, organization or the group.

~~012. Underwriting standards.~~ No insurer shall use underwriting standards for individual risk selection in a mass marketing plan which are, on the whole, more restrictive than the standards used by such insurer for individual risk selection in the sale of the same kind of insurance in this state other than pursuant to mass marketing plans. In the event insurer does not sell such kind of insurance in this state other than pursuant to mass marketing plans, its underwriting standards for individual risk selection in such plans shall, on the whole, be no more restrictive than the standards used by its principal affiliate, if any, for individual risk selection in the sale of such kind of insurance in this state other than pursuant to mass marketing plans.

~~013. Cancellation and non-renewal.~~

~~013.01~~ Sixty (60) days notice must be given to the employer, association, organization or other group by the insurer of their intent to withdraw their plan. Except in unusual circumstances individual policies or certificates should continue until normal expiration or renewal date. The failure of any

~~employer, association, organization or other group to remit premiums when due for any reasons (including but not limited to interruption or termination of employment or membership) shall not be regarded as "non-payment of premium" by an insured under any such plan providing for remittance of premium by such employer, association, organization or other group, unless such insured shall have been given written notice of such failure to remit and shall not himself have paid such premium by the later or (i) twenty days after such notice or (ii) the due date of such premium remittance under the mass marketing plan.~~

~~013.02 All mass marketing plans shall provide that upon termination of employment or membership or upon the discontinuance of the mass marketing plan, the insured employee or member may maintain his policy in force for 60 days in the same amount, upon payment of the premium applicable to the class of risk to which he belongs on an individual basis. The option to maintain the insurance in force shall be exercised within 30 days following the date termination. Any notice of cancellation or non-renewal of any policy of an employee or member insured under a mass marketing plan shall be accompanied by a notice to the employee or member that, at his request, the insurer will afford the employer, association, organization or other group a reasonable opportunity to consult with the insured and to present facts in opposition to cancellation or non-renewal.~~

~~014. Compulsory facilities. An insurer, agent, or broker selling insurance pursuant to a mass marketing plan shall, with respect to any employees or members who apply for but are denied insurance under such plan, assist such persons in obtaining insurance through any other appropriate voluntary or mandatory insurance plan, such as but not limited to the Nebraska Automobile Insurance Plan.~~

~~015. Filing requirement. An insurer shall file the following information with the Rating Division of the Nebraska Department of Insurance within 45 days after an agreement has been made with an employer, association, organization, etc.:~~

~~015.01 The name of the group to be insured.~~

~~015.02 The number of eligible members.~~

~~015.03 The name of the agent or agency.~~

~~015.04 Whether contacts will be made with the group by the insurer's employees or the agent.~~

~~015.05 How solicitations including new employees will be handled, i.e., weekly, monthly, referral to agent, etc.~~

015.06 ~~How claims will be handled, i.e. by insurer's employee, through agent, etc.~~

~~Filings made pursuant to this section shall be considered confidential by the Department of Insurance.~~